

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2365

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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EXDIS/SALT

DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

MOSCOW PLEASE PASS SECRETARY KISSINGER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON OCTOBER 25 MEETING (SALT TWO-479)

1. SEMENOV'S STATEMENT AT TODAY'S MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO RENEWING OLD SOVIET PROPOSAL ON FUTURE SYSTEMS BY PROPOSING "THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT INCLUDE AN ARTICLE THAT IN THE EVENT OF THE EMERGENCY IN THE FUTURE OF ANY NEW TYPES OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS NOT COVERED BY THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THOSE BASED ON OTHER PHYSICAL PRINCIPLES

,
THE QUESTION OF THEIR PROHIBITION OR LIMITATION WILL BE SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENT." THEIR PROPOSAL THIS TIME WEN ON TO ADD "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUCH AND UNDERSTANDING THE SIDES WOULD ALSO UNDERTAKE THE OBLIGATION OT TO TAKE ACTIONS WHICH COULD LEAD TO THE WEAKENING OR THE CIRCUMVENTION OF LIMITATIONS IN THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE OF THE DEPLOYMENT OF NEW TYPES OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS."

2. ALTHOUGH I MADE REPEATED EFFORTS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION TO CLARIFY WHETHER SOVIET CONCEPT WAS THAT ALL SUCH ARMS WOULD BE BANNED

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UNLESS BOTH SIDES AGREED TO PERMIT, OR WHETHER THEY WOULD ONLY BE

BANNED

IF BOTH SIDES AGREED, HE AVOIDED ANY DIRECT ANSWER. HOWEVER, IN THE LIGHT OF OUR CONVERSATION AND HIS REFERENCE TO THEIR ADDITION TO NON-CIRCUMVENTION PARAGRAPH, I LEAN TOWARD INTERPRETATION THAT SUCH ARMS WOULD BE BANNED UNLESS BOTH SIDES AGREED OTHERWISE.

3. THEIR STATEMENT ALSO RENEWED THE PROPOSAL FOR BANNING "STRATEGIC BALLISTIC MISSILE RE-ENTRY VEHICLES OF THE MANEUVERABLE TYPE AND THOSE WITH GROUND TARGET HOMING". IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATION AS TO WHETHER THEY WERE ADVISEDLY USING THAT WORD "AND" IN THE FOREGOING FORMULATION, HE SAID THAT LANGUAGE WAS CONTAINED IN HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW AND HE COULD NOT AMPLIFY IT.

4. LAST PART OF HIS STATEMENT WAS DEVOTED TO INVITING FURTHER US VIEWS ON HOW "STRATEGIC BOMBERS" SHOULD BE HANDLED IN NEW AGREEMENT. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION I POINTED OUT WE HAD ALREADY SAID MUCH WITH RESPECT TO BOMBERS AND ASKED WHETHER THEIR PROPOSAL FOR LIMITING THE "PUTTING INTO OPERATION" OF B-1S, TOGETHER WITH THEIR PROPOSAL THAT PROVISIONS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ON MODERNIZATION AND REPLACEMENT BE CARRIED FORWARD, MEANT THAT THEY WERE PROPOSING THAT MODERNIZATION AND REPLACEMENT OF BOMBERS BE HANDLED DIFFERENTLY THAN MODERNIZATION AND REPLACEMENT OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE CENTRAL SYSTEMS AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THEIR RATIONALE. THE ONLY ANSWER I GOT WAS THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO LISTEN TO WHAT FURTHER WE HAD TO SAY ON BOMBERS. IN PARTICULAR, THEY WERE ANXIOUS TO HEAR PRECISELY WHAT WE MEANT BY "TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT PAYLOAD OF BOMBERS." HE SAID THAT AT NEXT MEETING HE INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE "THIRD COUNTRY" QUESTION.

5. BOTH SHCHUKIN WITH MAY AND BELETSKY WITH ROWNEY RAISED SUBJECT OF MIRV VERIFICATION AGAIN, ASKING PRECISELY WHAT "SPECIAL MEASURES" WE HAD IN MIND. SCHUKIN EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE MUTUALLY WORKED OUT MEASURES THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES.

6. MY BRIEF STATEMENT TODAY WAS ON "HIGH DEGREE OF EQUIVALENCE".

7. THERE WILL BE NO HIGHLIGHTS CABLE THIS MEETING. JOHNSON

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NNN

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